

Minutes
of the Conference Call Meeting
of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
Held on January 4, 2006 at CDFA Headquarters, Room 333, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Participating

Dennis Atkinson	Brad Lange	Jim Unti
Pete Downs	Steve McIntyre	
Ben Drake	Herb Schmidt	
Hugh "Wally" Ewart	Bob Steinhauer	

Members Not Participating

Kevin Andrew	Dana Merrill
Greg Coleman	Al Rossini
Frank Leeds	Paul Wulf

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Tom Esser	Julie Lindsey	Beth Stone-Smith
Janet LeMasters	Roger Spencer	

CALL TO ORDER

Pete Downs called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Esser conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OPENING REMARKS

Board Chairman Pete Downs welcomed the group to the conference call.

REPORT FROM THE AD HOC RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE EVALUATING THE AVF PROPOSAL AND THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR PROPOSAL

Steve McIntyre, Chair of the Ad Hoc Research Subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee recommends the Board postpone action on the proposal received from the American Vineyard Foundation (AVF) to provide research evaluation services, and request CDFA go forward with soliciting bids from outside contractors for a research director to direct the Board's research program. There was some discussion about cost, length of the contract, and the scoring and contract-awarding process. After discussion, the Board voted and unanimously passed the following motion:

It was **M/S/P** that the Board postpone acting on the AVF proposal, and request the California Department of Food and Agriculture solicit proposals for an outside contractor to direct the research program of the PD/GWSS Board.

OTHER ITEMS

Tom Esser updated the Board on the recent EIR lawsuit ruling. Last week, the California Court of Appeals found in favor of the appellants and against CDFA on some of the issues raised. The Appeals Court reversed the decision of the trial court and remanded it back to the trial court with directions. CDFA is currently reviewing its options for responding to this ruling.

Tom reminded everyone about the next meeting of the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force to be held on February 27-28, 2006, in Temecula, California. He also asked members to send in agenda items.

Tom also mentioned that he was recently in communication with the USDA-ARS office in Washington DC discussing a situation involving indirect costs that was holding up a contract. They (USDA) would waive the indirect costs for this specific contract but not future ones. [This was requested to be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.]

Tom also reported there had been an inquiry about the newly-formed Table Grape Pest Control Districts participating in the PD/GWSS research funding process. [This was requested to be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.]

Roger Spencer updated the Board on the Public Outreach RFP. There were 50 inquiries and 8 submissions. Interviews would begin after January 19, 2006.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Board Chairperson Pete Downs thanked Steve McIntyre and others for their hard work in putting together the proposal for the Research Director. Pete asked for a motion to adjourn the conference call. It was M/S/P (Bob Steinhauer/Jim Unti) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.